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ACTION EA-09

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INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 3920

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR JERRY N. JENSON

SUMMARY. JERRY N. JENSON, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF DEA, VISITED BANGKOK FEBRUARY 11-15. BESIDES ATTENDING THE FIRST MEETING OF DEA'S INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (IAA) AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEA SPECIAL AGENT MEETING, MR. JENSON WAS ABLE TO MEET THE MISSION NARCOTICS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TRAVEL TO CHIANG MAI TO SEE THE UNITED NATIONS CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT. HE ALSO MET RANKING THAI POLICE OFFICIALS WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING POLICE LT. GENERAL CHUMPHON LOHACHALA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD. MR. JENSON'S VISIT PROVIDED THE MISSION WITH AN EXTREMELY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR A MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH A SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIAL ON THE THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND GENERAL MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL. THE VISIT ALSO DEMONSTRATED TO THAI NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE THE USG PLACES ON THE THAI PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. MR. JENSON BRIEFED THE MISSION'S NARCOTICS EXECU-
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TIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) FEBRUARY 11 ON THE NARCOTICS SITUA-

TION ON THE UNITED STATES. HE ESTIMATED THAT 90 PERCENT OF THE HEROIN IN THE U.S. IS OF MEXICAN ORIGIN. THE OTHER 10 PERCENT COMES FROM EUROPEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN SOURCES, WITH PERHAPS FIVE TO SIX PERCENT COMING FROM THE LATTER. MR. JENSON NOTED THAT THE ABSOLUTE VOLUME OF HEROIN ENTERING THE U.S. APPEARS TO BE ON THE INCREASE. HE POINTED TO THE INCREASING HEROIN TRAFFIC FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA TO EUROPE, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS HEROIN MIGHT FIND ITS WAY INTO THE U.S., ESPECIALLY IF THE CHINESE ORGANIZATION WHICH IS CONTROLLING THIS TRAFFIC, IS ABLE TO LINK UP WITH THE TRADITIONAL EUROPEAN TRAFFICKERS.

2. THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION OUTLINED FOR MR. JENSON THE DEVELOPMENT AND STATUS OF THE U.S. NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN THAILAND. IN 1971 THE USG, RTG AND UNITED NATIONS REACHED AGREEMENT ON A DIVISION OF LABOR. THE USG AGREED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ENFORCEMENT, AND THE UN AGREED TO WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENTAL SIDE (CROP SUBSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) IN THE OPIUM GROWING AREAS OF NORTHERN THAILAND. THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

3. AFTER LARGE NARCOTICS SEIZURES IN 1972 AND 1973, THE KING EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN THAT THE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS WAS CREATING PROBLEMS FOR THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TRIBAL MINORITIES IN NORTHERN THAILAND. SINCE THE UN CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT WAS MOVING SLOWLY, THE MISSION DECIDED THAT IT SHOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. SINCE 1973 USOM AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN REINFORCING THE UNFDAC PROJECT BY PROVIDING SELECTIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE RTG FOR NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND CROP SUBSTITUTION. THE UN PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL PROJECT IS NOW AT THE POINT WHERE IT SHOULD START TO MOVE OUT AGGRESSIVELY INTO LARGER NUMBERS OF VILLAGES. THIS IS THE COURSE WE URGED ON THE UNFDAC EVALUATION TEAM SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

4. ANOTHER PART OF THE PROGRAM IS USIS, WHOSE ROLE IS HELPING WITH A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO CONVINCE

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THE THAI THAT THEY HAVE A DOMESTIC PROBLEM WITH DRUG ABUSE.

5. THE DCM NOTED THAT THE THAI PERFORMANCE IS BETTER IN SOME RESPECTS THAN IT WAS SEVERAL YEARS AGO, ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL VOLUME OF SEIZURES IS DOWN AND SERIOUS PROBLEMS REMAIN. THESE INCLUDE A SHORTAGE OF GOOD PEOPLE WORKING IN NARCOTICS CONTROL, THE UNSTABLE NATURE OF THE THAI

GOVERNMENT, AND WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION AT THE WORKING LEVELS OF THE THAI POLICE. ONLY ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF THE NARCOTICS MOVING THROUGH THAILAND IS INTERDICTED. THE DCM CONCLUDED THAT THE ANSWER TO THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM WILL BE A LONG TIME IN COMING, AND WILL BE ARRIVED AT ONLY THROUGH A BROAD PROGRAM OF CONTROL IN ALL COUNTRIES WITH THE PROBLEM.

6. MR. JENSON ASKED NEC MEMBERS FOR SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT WASHINGTON MIGHT DO TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE THAI PROGRAM. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT SOMETHING BE DONE TO STIR UP THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THE NARCOTICS ISSUE. THE DCM MENTIONED THE SPECIFIC NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY BY U.S. AGENCIES IN HELPING DESIGN A BETTER REWARD SYSTEM FOR NARCOTICS SEIZURES AT THE AIRPORT. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING FOUR WEEKS OF PER DIEM FOR POLICE GENERAL SURAPHON CHUNLAPHRAM DURING HIS EXECUTIVE TOUR IN THE UNITED STATES.

7. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE HOSTED A LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF MR. JENSON ON FEBRUARY 11. OTHER GUESTS WERE FROM THE EMBASSY, USOM AND DEA. AT THE LUNCHEON MISSION OFFICIALS DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF NARCOTICS RELATED TOPICS WITH MR. JENSON. THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE MATTER OF THE FIVE HELICOPTERS THAT THE U.S. WAS TO HAVE TURNED OVER TO THE THAI IN 1975. HE NOTED THAT THE INFORMATION ON THE MISUSE OF THAI POLICE HELICOPTERS TO SMUGGLE NARCOTICS WAS OLD, AND BASED ON TWO INCIDENTS THAT TOOK PLACE TWO YEARS AGO. THE THAI HAD TAKEN CORRECTIVE ACTION LONG BEFORE THE U.S. LEARNED OF THE INCIDENTS. HE AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE THAI WERE NOT USING TO MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS THE TWO HELICOPTERS WE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN THEM, BUT POINTED TO INCREASED UTILIZATION DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS. HE NOTED THAT THE HELICOPTERS WERE USED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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JANUARY TO MOVE POLICE INTO A RUGGED AREA OF NORTHERN THAILAND WHERE THEY SEIZED AN OPERATING HEROIN REFINERY.

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11

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8. THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM SAID THE THAI ATTACHED GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FIVE HELICOPTERS, AND VIEWED THEM AS A SIGN OF OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THEIR ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS. IF THE PROAG FOR THESE ADDITIONAL FIVE IS NOW TERMINATED, THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR FUTURE NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN THAILAND WILL BE SERIOUS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE U.S. WOULD LOSE ITS MAJOR SUPPORTER, POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN, IF WE DO NOT DELIVER THE HELICOPTERS. THIS COULD BRING ALL ELEMENTS OF OUR NARCOTICS PROGRAM TO A VIRTUAL HELT.

9. MR. JENSON FLEW TO CHIANG MAI FOR ONE DAY ON FEBRUARY 12. GENERAL PHAO SARASIN SERVED AS HOST FOR THE TRIP, AND A THAI POLICE AIRCRAFT WAS USED TO FLY FROM BANGKOK TO CHIANG MAI.

10. FROM CHIANG MAI, MR. JENSON FLEW BY THAI POLICE HELICOPTER TO THE UN CROP RESEARCH STATION AT CHANG KHIAN AND TO THREE OF THE UN'S KEY VILLAGES WHERE CROP SUBSTITUTION IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. GENERAL PHAO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT AND THE INTENTION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE THE WORK WITH UN SUPPORT. PHAO ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF HELICOPTERS TO THE WHOLE NARCOTICS EFFORT IN NORTHERN THAILAND. HE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE U.S. SUPPLIED
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HELICOPTERS WAS DOWN WITH MECHINICAL PROBLEMS AND THAT WHENEVER THIS HAPPENED, THE PROGRAM WAS HINDERED. GEN. PHAO SAID THE FIVE U.S. HELICOPTERS WOULD, THEREFORE, BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE EFFORT IN THE NORTH.

11. WHILE IN CHIANG MAI, MR. JENSON ALSO CALLED ON OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE, THE BORDER PATROL POLICE,

AND THE SPECIAL NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION.

12. COMMENT: MR. JENSON'S BRIEF BUT BUSY VISIT TO THAILAND EXPOSED HIM TO A WIDE RANGE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES, FROM ENFORCEMENT TO CROP SUBSTITUTION. HE WAS ALSO ABLE TO MEET THE KEY THAI OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM. MANY OF THE THAI WITH WHOM HE TALKED HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR HIS VISIT AND APPEAR TO VIEW IT AS A SIGN THAT DEA PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THAILAND AND THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM HERE.
WHITEHOUSE

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